

LOSS OF LIFE IN THE GREATEST BATTLES

The Ratio Is Decreasing With the Improvement of Weapons—Our War Department Makes a Comparative Study of Figures.

As war grows more terrible, it would seem that each improvement in destructive weapons is—paradoxical though it may seem—the cause of a decreased loss of life in battle. This is the observation of War department experts based on investigations and practical results covering the entire history of wars. They contend that, at the conclusion of hostilities between Japan and Russia, when exact figures of those engaged in the various battles and the number of casualties will become available, the above theory will be found correct, notwithstanding present reports of an unusually large ratio of killed and wounded. Keeping within this view, military experts prove that the number of casualties in war was greatest in the sixteenth century; but the old fashion came general to the introduction of the iron ramrod and the bayonet, says the New York "Tribune."

During this period the infantry was divided into about equal numbers of pikemen and musketeers. They were formed ten deep (pikemen in the center and musketeers on the flank) because it was found that when the front rank had fired it could reload by the time the other ranks had come to the front and fired. The musketeers were over the shoulder a band of broad leather, with a half dozen charges fastened to it in horn or wooden cases, which were suspended by long strings so that they could be readily brought to the muzzle of the piece, the musket barrel was four and a half feet long. Attached to his girdle the soldier carried a bullet bag containing, moulds, bullets, worms, screws and priming iron. He also carried his scouring stick, with horn rammer at one end and a screw at the other for the worm. In the right hand he carried his rest, of ash wood, with an iron spike at one end to stick in the ground, and a half hoop of iron for the musket to rest upon at the other. Gustavus Adolphus substituted cartridge pouches for bandoliers, abolished heavy rests, and formed his men in files six deep; but the old fashion prevailed in England down to Naseby, when Fairfax first superseded bandoliers with pouches and introduced a lighter musket rest, of iron tubing covered with leather. Exactly how the soldier carried his rest, ten square in which the infantry was formed, were managed on the field is a puzzle to modern experts. They want to know if the pikemen stood like lambs, presenting fair mark for the muskets or their foes. And when it came to push of pike what became of the musketeers, exposed without a hand-to-hand weapon on the flanks?

The period in which this mode of fighting was observed begins with the battle of Leipsic, in 1631, at which 51,850 were engaged and at which the casualties amounted to 13,700 or 25 per cent, and is followed by the battle of Lutzen, 1632; total engaged, 51,000; casualties, 18,000, or 35 per cent.; battle of Nordlingen, 1634, total engaged, 51,000; casualties, 18,000, or 35 per cent.; battle of Rocroy, 1643; total engaged, 49,000; casualties, 17,000, or 35 per cent.; battle of Marston Moor, 1644; total engaged, 47,000; casualties, 15,000, or 32 per cent.; battle of Naseby, 1645; total engaged, 20,000; casualties, 3,700, or 18 per cent.; battle of Senef, in 1674; total engaged, 108,000; casualties 37,000, or 34 per cent. The average percentage of casualties for this, the first period, is 26.

A notable feature of this period is the large proportion of killed to the entire amount of casualties. At Marston Moor, although it seems improbable that the entire loss was any greater than that stated above, the country folk told Ashe that they buried four thousand bodies on the field. At Lutzen, Wallingstein and Peppenheim they left 9,000 dead on the field, and of the Swedes, the entire yellow regiment lay on the ground in order where they stood before. At Rocroy the "incomparable Spanish infantry" was annihilated; of eighteen thousand engaged nine thousand were killed in their ranks. "How many of you were there before the battle?" asked a Frenchman of a Spanish officer. "You have only to count the dead and the prisoners," was the reply. This was owing in part to the awkward mode of formation before alluded to, and also, no doubt, to the horde of camp followers, who swarmed over the field after an action, plundering friend and foe alike, and poniarding all who had life enough left to resist.

Between the first and the second periods there is a space of seventy years, of which no account is here taken, as the one glided imperceptibly into the other, the plug bayonet having been substituted for the pike in the English army in 1672, and the iron ramrod being the invention of Leopold of Anhalt-Dessau, the "Old Dessauer," early in the eighteenth century. The infantry arm of the second period was the old "Brown Bess,"

smooth-bore flint-lock with bayonet. The substitution of the smooth-bore flintlock for the pike—a great improvement in weapons—brought about a decrease in the rate of casualties from 26 to 20½ per cent. The period in which this "new weapon" predominated begins with the battle of Hohenfriedberg in 1745, in which 140,000 Prussians and Austrians were engaged, with 14,000 or 10 per cent. casualties, and is followed by the battle of Fontenoy, in 1745; 10,000 French, English and Austrians; 12,000, or 11 per cent. casualties; battle of Leuthen, in 1757; 110,000 Prussians and Austrians; 16,200, or 15 per cent. casualties; battle of Kolin, in 1757; 94,000 Austrians and Prussians; 18,887, or 20 per cent. casualties; battle of Hochkirch, in 1758; 130,900 Austrians and Prussians; 14,000 or 11 per cent. casualties; battle of Zorndorf, in 1758; 82,000 Prussians and Russians; battle of Silvery Wood, in 1760; 9,100 English and French; 3,000, or 33 per cent. casualties; battle of Marengo, in 1800; 68,977 French and Austrians; 13,800, or 23 per cent. casualties; battle of Jena and Auerstadt, in 1806; 200,000 French and Prussians; 34,000 or 17 per cent. casualties; battle of Eylau, in 1807; 155,000 French and Russians; 55,000, or 35 per cent. casualties; battle of Talavera, in 1809; 96,000 English, Spanish and French; 13,457, or 14 per cent. casualties; battle of Wagram, in 1809; 280,000 French and Austrians; 24,000, or 8 to 9 per cent. casualties; battle of Albuera, in 1811; 55,000 English, Spanish and French; 15,000, or 27 per cent. casualties; battle of Borodino, 265,000 French and Russians; 95,000 or 36 per cent. casualties; battle of Leipsic, three days, in 1813, 465,000 allies and French; 97,804, or 21 per cent. casualties; battle of Vittoria, in 1813; 140,000 English, Spanish and French; 10,676, or 8 per cent. casualties; battle of Lunday's Lane, in 1814; 9,200 British and Americans; 1,738, or 19 per cent. casualties; battle of Kunesdorf, in 1759; 130,000 Austrians, Russians and Prussians; 37,000 or 29 per cent. casualties; battle of Bunker Hill, in 1775; 5,900 British and Americans; 1,457, or 24 per cent. casualties; battle of Friedland, in 1807; 135,000 French and Russians; 27,000 or 20 per cent. casualties; battle of Bautzen, in

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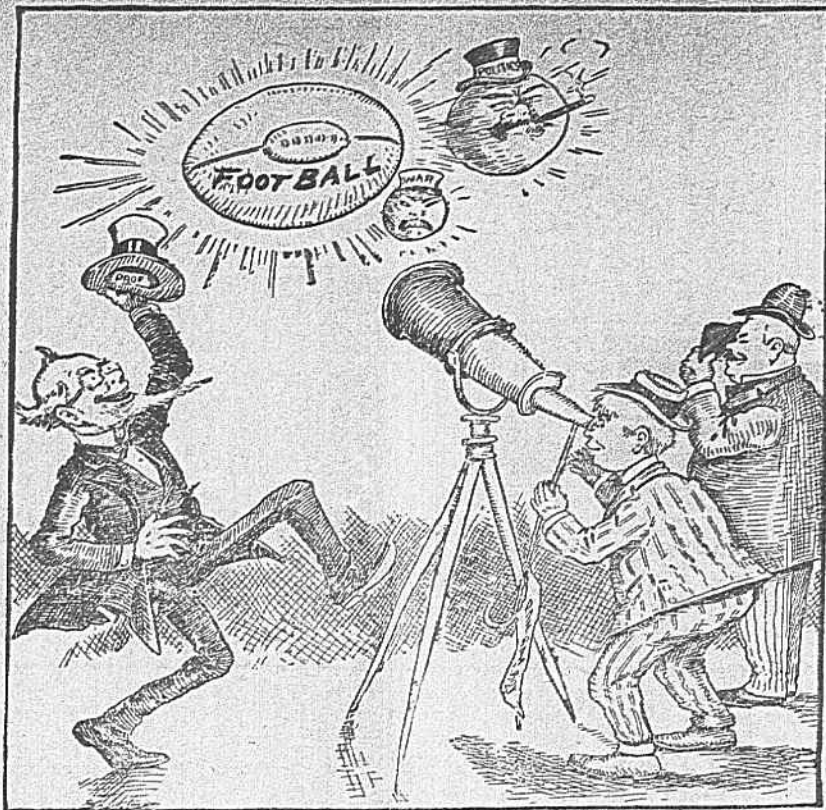
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AN ECLIPSE IN SIGHT.



—Minneapolis Journal.

1813; 240,000 French and allies; 34,000, or 14 per cent. casualties.

RACE WITH A MOB TO SAVE PRISONERS.

Negroes Returning From Court Pitched Into Open Door of Jail—Mob Given the Slip.

LEXINGTON, Ky., Nov. 24.—Garfield Smith and John and Edward Taylor, colored, were taken under heavy guard to Yamallton station, seven miles from the city, and there put aboard a Chesapeake & Ohio train for Louisville, where they will be kept until the authorities believe it safe for them to appear for trial here.

The negroes were taken to the Court House about 11 o'clock in a patrol wagon guarded by twelve policemen. A large crowd had gathered at the jail and the streets were lined with shouting people. The patrol wagon was driven at breakneck speed to the Court House, where, after a preliminary hearing the negroes were held to the grand jury. The same exciting scenes attended the return of the negroes to jail. The doors of the jail were open when the patrol wagon returned, and the negroes were literally thrown through the entrance and

the doors slammed in the face of the mob which surged around the place.

A great crowd gathered on the streets, but a cordon of police overawed anything like an attempt at violence.

Rev. R. O. Kirkwood to-day started a fund to buy a home for the widow and ten orphans of the murdered white man and an effort to raise a large sum will be made. The finding of six negroes armed with shotguns on the outskirts of the city to-day shows there is an ugly feeling which may lead to clashes with whites, but negro preachers and the better class of colored people are doing their utmost to keep down the race feeling.

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No. 5.—Wheeling Accommodation. 7:47 A. M.
No. 55.—Wheeling & Cincinnati Express. 7:29 P. M.
No. 71.—Wheeling Accommodation. 1:36 P. M.
EAST BOUND.
No. 8.—New York, Baltimore and Washington Express. 3:25 A. M.
No. 72.—Grafton Accom'n 10:53 A. M.
No. 46.—New York, Baltimore and Washington Express. 1:48 P. M.
No. 4.—Grafton Accom'n 8:33 P. M.

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No. 50.—Pittsburg Accom'n 1:00 P. M.
No. 4.—Pittsburg Accom'n 9:55 P. M.

DEPARTS.
No. 3.—Pittsburg Accom'n 7:50 A. M.
No. 51.—Arrives at Fairmont 12:10 P. M.
No. 69 leaves daily for Morgantown at 9:05 P. M. No. 62 arrives from Morgantown at 6:55 A. M., daily except Sunday; at 8:00 A. M. Sunday only.

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No. 5.—Arrives at Fairmont 5:35 P. M.
No. 1.—Arrives at Fairmont 12:10 P. M.
No. 3.—Arrives at Fairmont 7:45 A. M.
No. 2.—Leaves Fairmont. 7:10 A. M.
No. 6.—Leaves Fairmont. 1:53 P. M.
No. 4.—Leaves Fairmont. 9:55 P. M.
All trains are daily except Nos. 3 and 4 on the F., M. and P. branch, which are daily except Sunday.

For sleeping car reservations and information concerning tickets and rates, consult

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SAYS ROLES ARE REVERSED.

Novoe Vremya Argues Germany is For Peace and America For Armaments.

ST. PETERSBURG, Nov. 23.—The Novoe Vremya, discussing the recent speeches of President Roosevelt, Mr. Morton, Secretary of the Navy, and the German Imperial Chancellor, Count von Buelow, argues that the United States and Germany are reversing their roles, the former now being in favor of increasing armaments and the latter being ambitious to take part in the peaceful councils of Nations.

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